

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

An electrically conductive coating is provided on a housing structure of a marine propulsion system. By impressing a current on the electrically conductive coating, which can be a polymer material, the housing structure is used as an anode in a cathodic protection system. In addition, the use of the electrically conductive coating on the housing structure as an anode inhibits the growth of marine fouling on the outer surface of the housing structure by forming chlorine gas in a saltwater environment and by forming an acidic water layer near the surface in a non-saltwater environment.